

FAITH BIBLE READING

Feb 18-24, 2019

At Faith Baptist Fellowship, we *Love God's Word and Prayer* (Ephesians 6:17-18)! Take the 'sword of the Spirit' (God's Word) and persevere in prayer! In this year, ask God each day to speak directly to you from the Scripture portions you read. Select a quiet place and consistent time to read and pray.

Our plan for 2019 will be similar to previous years **with one exception**. Monday-Saturday we will focus on one main devotional passage; the additional readings will keep you on track to finish the entire Bible in one year. On Sunday, we will have a passage from the upcoming Sunday sermon along with questions for Faith Group discussion. **In addition**, we will include a **"One Another"** passage also for Faith Group discussion and personal application in caring for one another in the body of Faith.

We suggest having a notebook and pen for answering questions and recording your thoughts/insights. Bring this notebook with you to Faith Group for discussions and prayer times.

Abbreviations: **TAI** – Think About It | **PP** – Prayer Points

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Read Matthew 17:14-27

TAI: A "failure" by the disciples is no problem for the Lord Jesus; the source of the seizures is revealed to be demonic. It is further revealed that the disciples faith was not adequate to the task. Ponder "mustard seed" sized faith and the moving of mountains. How strong is your faith in God's grace and power? What distressed the disciples? Why? What point does Jesus make about the temple tax? Yet why does he pay it (and HOW!)? How do you think Jewish readers of Matthew would respond to this chapter? How do you respond to it?

PP: Speak to your Heavenly Father about your faith in Christ. Is it weak? Confess that and ask the Father to strengthen it. Do you want God to work in some important situation? Tell him what mountains you want him to move. Thank God for the cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Rejoice that your Father is the King, and that as his child your future is secure. *Pray for our nation and its leaders. Pray for a moving of God's Holy Spirit across our land.*

Additional readings: Acts 24; Psalm 39; Leviticus 5-7

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Read Matthew 18:1-14

TAI: Ponder some of the reasons the disciples may have asked this question. Then reflect on Jesus' masterful answer to their question. What is the point Jesus makes about greatness? What stern warning accompanies this teaching? Bible scholars view vv. 8-9 as examples of overstatement. Why is that so? What point is Jesus making? With parables it is wise to discern the main point being taught; what is the main point of the parable of the Lost Sheep?

PP: Do you aspire to greatness? Express to God your desire to be great in humility. *If you are a parent, pray right now for each of your children. And let us all pray for the children in our oversight and care at Faith Baptist Fellowship, asking God's help to lead them TO Jesus and never AWAY from him!* Tell God that you take sin seriously. If any sin comes to mind, confess it to the Father and enjoy the cleansing grace of Christ. Express your desire to walk in holiness. Pray for any "lost sheep" in your sphere of influence.

Additional readings: Acts 25:1-12; Psalm 40; Leviticus 8-10

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Read Matthew 18:15-35

TAI: This is a sad but true statement: often people are hurt or injured in relationships (including in church) because rather than confront conflicts and work them out, they are swept under the rug and denied. Feelings get hurt, wrongs are uncorrected, and frequently misunderstanding results. What is the first step each of us should take if we feel wronged? What is the second step, if reconciliation does not happen? What do you think v. 17 means? Did you realize vv. 19-20 refer to church discipline? What is the main point of the parable of the unforgiving servant? How does it relate to the earlier verses?

PP: If you feel wronged by anyone, ask God to help you go to them and work it out. Pray that our church practice wise and discerning church discipline and be permeated with an atmosphere of forgiveness, grace, and love in working out tensions.

Additional Readings: Acts 25:13-27; Psalm 41; Leviticus 11-13

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Read Matthew 19:1-15

TAI: When the Pharisees seek to test Jesus with a controversial subject, divorce, where does Jesus turn for his answer? Jesus' answer seems to stun the Pharisees—why? Why did the Mosaic law give some provision for divorce in Israel? The disciples also are taken aback, and wonder if it's better then not to marry. How does Jesus respond? What do you think he means? Why would the disciples seek to prevent children from coming to Jesus? What do we learn from Jesus' response to this situation?

PP: In our day of “no-fault” divorce, relational abuse, and badly broken families, how do we respond to this teaching from Jesus? Pray for young people to be wise in carefully choosing their mates. Ask God to give our youth godly and Christ-committed mates. Pray for humility and love in your home, and for the marriages of those close to you. Pray Ephesians 4:31-32 for your home. Pray for those in difficult, loveless, and abusive relationships. *Pray for children too!*

Additional Readings: Acts 26:1-18; Psalm 42; Leviticus 14-15

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Read Matthew 19:16-30

TAI: What common misconception did this young man have about eternal life? Do you know people today who think this way? It's interesting to note which commands Jesus commended to the man. How did the Lord Jesus then zero in on the man's heart issue? How do riches present an obstacle to genuine salvation? Yet, thanks be to God, “with God all things are possible.” Worth reflection: the high cost/great reward of following Jesus, and the implications of v. 30.

PP: Rejoice with a prayer of praise that “with God all things are possible” including overcoming the obstacles in your own heart to give you the gift of eternal life! Pray for someone you know who thinks their good works will earn them salvation and heaven. Ask God to draw them to saving faith in Jesus. Express to the Father your longing for his presence in the glorious future ahead.

Additional Readings: Acts 26:19-32; Psalm 43; Leviticus 16-17

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Read Matthew 20:1-16

TAI: This parable is an expansion on the statement at the end of the last chapter, Matthew 19:30. Ponder this vivid parable from the master teacher Jesus, and write down here your thoughts on the main point Jesus was making:

PP: How vitally important it is that we do not become haughty or superior as Christians, for our salvation is by God's great grace alone. Let us rejoice with the angels over one sinner who repents! Pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all he has done for you. Praise him for his mercy, redeeming love, and generosity toward you. Pray for the lost people on your Sacred 7 list (7 people you long to see come to saving faith in Christ).

Additional Readings: Acts 27:1-26; Psalm 44; Leviticus 18-20

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Read Mark 8:22-9:1

TAI & PP: What a remarkable passage! Why do you think Jesus healed the blind man in two stages? What did Peter understand in his declaration concerning Jesus? Yet, what did the disciples still not clearly understand about Messiah? Why did Jesus say, "Get behind me, Satan!" to Peter? Do you set your mind on things above? Jesus combines rebuke and promise in a thought-provoking way. *Tell God of your desire to boldly follow Jesus, unashamed of him or his words.*

Care Point: Romans 15:7 *Therefore "welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you", for the glory of God.* To "welcome" means to admit to fellowship, receive and treat with kindness. What does this look like in your home, with your faith group and at church?